

DG



**Executive**

**Headquarters**

Department of Health

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds LS2 7UE

Tel 0113 254 5000

To: Chief Executives of District Health Authorities  
 Directors of Social Services

Copy: Chief Executives of Regional Health Authorities  
 Regional Directors of Public Health  
 District Directors of Public Health  
 Chief Executives of NHS Trusts  
 Chief Executives of Special Health Authorities  
 Chief Executives of Community Health Councils  
 Chief Executives of Family Health Service Authorities

**EL(95)56**  
**CI(95)13**  
 10 May 1995



**Dear Colleague,**

***The Government's White Paper "Tackling Drugs Together".***

1. The Government has today published its White Paper "Tackling Drugs Together". Three copies are enclosed for Chief Executives of District Health Authorities, three for Directors of Social Services and one for the copy recipients listed.
2. The White Paper builds on the Green Paper, issued in October 1994, and sets out the Government's strategy for tackling drug misuse in England over the next three years. This letter outlines important developments for both Chief Executives of District Health Authorities and Directors of Social Services.
3. An essential element of delivering the strategy is local co-ordination and the White Paper calls for the establishment of Drug Action Teams which will be responsible for determining local priorities consistent with the overall strategy and for ensuring that these are implemented. DHA Chief Executives are charged with establishing Drug Action Teams and ensuring appropriate senior representation from the DHA, Local Authority (including Social Services), Police, Prison and Probation Services.
4. A copy for Chief Executives of District Health Authorities and for Directors of Social Services of detailed guidance on the role and membership of Drug Action Teams, and Drug Reference Groups which will advise them, is attached. The guidance also appears at Annex D of the White Paper. Funds will be available for establishing Drug Action Teams and we will be notifying RHAs of their allocations shortly. District Health Authorities and Social Service Departments have a crucial role to play in making the work of the Drug Action Teams successful and it is important that both play their full part.

5. Early progress needs to be made in taking forward the Government strategy at local level. To ensure this:

- **by 30 September 1995**

- Chief Executives of District Health Authorities should send two copies of a report on the establishment of Drug Action Teams, indicating who will chair the team, its membership and terms of reference to:

- Ms Penny Allsop,  
Department of Health,  
Room 433,  
Wellington House,  
133-135 Waterloo Road,  
LONDON, SE1 8UG.

- **by 31 December 1995**

- Chairs of Drug Action Teams should submit their action plans for 1996/97 and 1997/98 to:

- Central Drugs Co-ordination Unit,  
Room 67D/4,  
Government Offices,  
Great George Street,  
LONDON, SW1P 3AL.

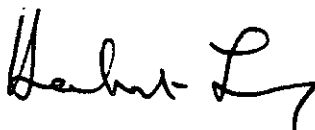
6. Copies of the White Paper are being sent to the other organisations which will be represented on Drug Action Teams through the normal channels.

7. Enquiries about this letter should be made to Penny Allsop at the above address.

Yours sincerely,



Alasdair Liddell  
Director of Planning  
and Performance Management  
NHS Executive



Herbert Laming  
Chief Inspector  
Social Services Inspectorate

This letter will be cancelled on 31 March 1996